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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1405)

Name of Candidate	Ankit Gupta		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	638107
Center	HOME	Date	16/11/20

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
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18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. The effectiveness of microcredit has come under question in recent times due to multiple reasons. Discuss in the context of India. **(150 words) 10**
विविध कारणों से हाल के दिनों में सूक्ष्म-वित्त की प्रभावकारिता सवालों के घेरे में आ गई है। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Huge NPAs caused due to microcredit in India has brought to surface the debate on microfinancing.

Microcredit → small amount of credit given to small entrepreneurs & other poorer section to help in their livelihood.

Reasons for effectiveness being questioned:-

- Microcredit insufficient to raise the living standards.
- Issue of multiple regulations (treatment as commercial banks even though they differ).
- Huge chunk of NPAs & problem of inefficient credit culture
- Lower levels of penetration affecting their functioning.
- Insignificant contribution in loan portfolio of poor sections.

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Positive side of microcredit :-

- targetted delivery of loans
- decentralized approach take local issue into account
- focus is poorer sections & SMEs so beneficial for formalization.
- Help in formal credit culture & financial inclusion.

Microcredit (ex:- MUDRA loans) have been critical to growth of MSME sector & enhancing low skill jobs which is needed in India to revive growth. Hence, the policy focus & regulatory framework needs to be redesigned to focus on this sector specifically

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2. For minimising distribution losses in the power sector, public private partnership (PPP) and input-based distribution franchisee models can provide the solution. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

विद्युत क्षेत्रक में वितरण घाटा कम करने के लिए, सार्वजनिक निजी भागीदारी (PPP) और आगत-आधारित वितरण फ्रेंचाइजी मॉडल समाधान प्रदान कर सकते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Input-based distribution franchise model is the incorporation of inputs & pre-determination of estimated scenario in preparing power purchase Agreements (PPA).

Benefits of PPP in power sector:-

- Combines efficiency of private sector with infrastructure of public sector.
- Involves proper determination of peak demands & cost analysis leading to informed pricing & better operational performance.
- Helps in reducing populism & rationalise use of electricity
- Distribution losses will be minimised through proper assessment of demand-supply scenario.
- Use of data analytics & AI by private sector to improve profits will lead to lower transmission costs.

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Input based distribution franchise model & its benefits in distribution :-

- Helps optimise supply-demand scenario.
- Peak demand & variation is analyzed leading to estimation beforehand.
- Reduces cost through rationalizing infrastructure for distribution.
- Helps in meeting public demand & provide customer satisfaction by efficiently allocating distribution of voltages.

Although there have been efforts in PPP & other arenas (ex: Mumbai, Gujarat) the problems remain due to operational bottle-necks. There is a need of overhauling the transmission infrastructure & integration of various sources of energy to reach the optimum level of benefits with customer satisfaction.

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3. What is gender budgeting? Give an account of the issues due to which gender budgeting has not been a fruitful exercise in India. Also, suggest measures required to address these issues. **(150 words) 10**

जेंडर बजटिंग क्या है? उन समस्याओं का विवरण दीजिए जिनके कारण जेंडर बजटिंग भारत में लाभदायक नहीं रही है। साथ ही, इन समस्याओं का समाधान करने के लिए आवश्यक उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

Gender Budgeting as a concept introduced in India in 2005 incorporates 3 dimensions of gender in budgeting:-

- Gender based allocations
- Allocations to gender in lumpsum allowances
- Woman-centric schemes & programmes.

Issues plaguing gender budgeting:-

- No data on gender related allocation & after effects.
- Pre-estimation exercise lacking leading to misallocation.
- Political will remains weak to incorporate gender as social group.
- Focus on funding rather than qualitative outcomes leading to no substantial gains.
- Motivation in bureaucrats & policy designers lacking.

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Measures required:-

- Cooperative federalism which fosters gender allocations at every level including municipalities, state & centre.
- Recognition of gender as a socially disadvantaged group & specific clauses in budget clearly determining the allocations.
- Research on effectiveness of women-centric schemes & making them more inclusive.
- Focus on women participation in budgeting for including their concerns & properly delineating targets to be achieved.

Gender Budgeting as a concept is not new. However, its lacklustre implementation is a major cause of female lagging behind (India ranks 112 in Gender Gap Index).

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4. Highlight the issues faced by the corporate bond market in India and suggest reforms required in this regard. (150 words) 10

भारत में कॉर्पोरेट बॉण्ड बाजार द्वारा सामना किए जाने वाले मुद्दों को रेखांकित कीजिए और इस संबंध में आवश्यक सुधारों का सुझाव दीजिए।

corporate bond market in India is 16% of GDP compared to more than 70% in South Korea which shows the underdevelopment.

Issues faced by corporate bond market:-

↳ lack of investors due to trust deficit.
↳ Absence of proper policy promotion.
↳ Twin balance sheet deterioration leading to further issues.
↳ Lack of diversified investment option
↳ Lack of trust in credit rating agencies
→ Information asymmetry leading to fear.
→ Non participation of retail investors
→ Limited participation of foreign investor
→ Lack of investments from debt funds, banks & other financial institutions due to mandated guidelines.

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Reforms needed :-

- Reducing crowding out of funds.
- Increasing the attractiveness through portfolio formation.
- Indexing & Standardization can be done to increase marketability.
- Allowing retail investors & increasing information flows to people to enhance transparency.
- Government regulations to be reformed to help corporates raise funds through reduced costs.

Corporate bond market development is key to reviving private investment & promote the virtuous cycle of wealth creation & push India back to growth rate of 8-9% per annum.

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5. In light of the renewed focus on strategic disinvestment in recent times, examine the rationale behind it and also discuss the concerns raised against it. (150 words) 10

हाल के दिनों में रणनीतिक विनिवेश पर नए सिरे से ध्यान केंद्रित किए जाने के आलोक में, इसमें निहित औचित्य का परीक्षण कीजिए तथा साथ ही इसके विरुद्ध व्यक्त चिंताओं की भी विवेचना कीजिए।

Strategic disinvestment means the government divesting its majority stake from a public sector enterprise (PSE) & transferring its management & ownership to a private entity.

Rationale behind strategic disinvestment;

- Enhance efficiency of the PSUs.
- Pull out the public finance.
- Bring government out of non-essential sector
- Finance for infrastructure development.
- Help in increasing profitability & stakes of ~~good~~ well-performing PSUs.
- Increase competition to promote innovation.

Concerns associated with strategic disinvestment

- Government unable to divest the loss making PSUs ex- Air India.

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- Funds used for financing budget deficit.
- undervaluation of PSUs leading to loss to exchequer.
- Problem of protest from employees.
- Divestment being done of profitable PSUs too to complete targets. Ex: BPCL
- Inadequate policy framework leading to sporadic decision making & miscalculations about government assets.

Public sector in India has deepened to a great extent. Hence, disinvestment process needs to be thought of in sync with priorities & focus upon increasing infrastructure rather than wasteful expenditure.

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6. While identifying the need for providing social security to gig workers, highlight the challenges that exist in this regard. (150 words) 10

गिग श्रमिकों को सामाजिक सुरक्षा प्रदान करने की आवश्यकता की पहचान करते हुए, इस संबंध में विद्यमान चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Gig workers means the workers engaged in delivering services via various unconventional ways (like freelancing, independent auditing etc)
They form 13% of India's workforce.

Need for Social Security to gig workers

- Not fixed term employment.
- Flows of revenues uncertain.
- No social security covering them.
- Form a big chunk of India's workforce so cause of concern.
- Increasing number leading to need for policy focus.
- Less recognition till now so policy formation & legislation needed.

Challenges existing

- Problem of informalization.
- Unavailability of data on their count.

↳ Difficulty in identifying the employers in some cases.

↳ Problem in certification & registration since frequent changes & enhanced dynamicity.

↳ Lack of policy & legislation to specifically focus on them.

Gig workers share is 24% from India in online world market which is major share. Hence, there is a need to cover them under social security benefits & protect them from uncertain dynamic nature of employment.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

7. Do you think that multi-year budgeting is the need of the hour in India? (150 words) 10

क्या आप मानते हैं कि भारत में बहु-वर्षीय बजटिंग समय की मांग है?

India has been facing many issues in budgetary resource allocation & budget ~~form~~ preparation & implementation. Multi-year budgeting is one of the area being discussed.

Pros of multi-year budgeting:

- Long-term policy predictability
- Reduced populism due to infrequent changes.
- Focus clear to private sector hence investment increase.
- Foreign players attracted due to long-term gains.
- Ease in monitoring & completing targets through target based allocation & fund release.
- Reduce 'March rush' & inefficient expenses.

Cons of multi-year budgeting:

- Unable to incorporate dynamic year-on year changes.

→ Will become lacklustre due to long gestation period.

→ Implementation is challenging because entirely new concept.

→ Government change every 5 years in India hence predictability will be in danger leading to volatility.

→ Policy formulations suffer because of yearly allocations being avoided.

Multi-year budgeting can be a prospective approach. However, there needs to be a pilot run & efficiency determination before bringing it at full scale.

- Randomized controlled trials can be a way to try it on small scale.

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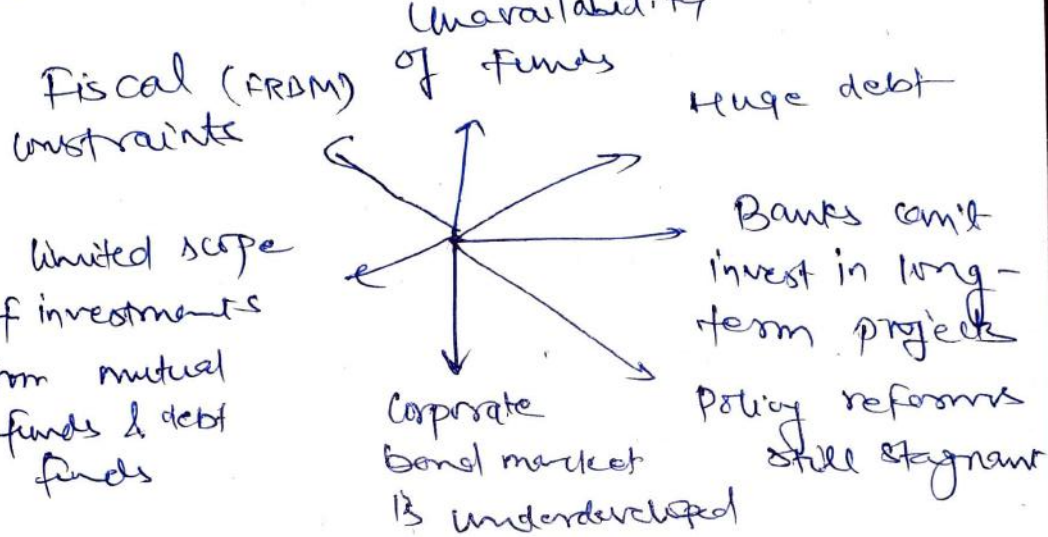
8. What are the issues faced in financing of infrastructure in India? Give an account of the steps taken by the government to resolve these in recent times. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में अवसंरचना के वित्त-पोषण में आड़े आनी वाली समस्याएं क्या हैं? हाल के दिनों में इनका समाधान करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का विवरण दीजिए।

India needs $1.4 Trillion investment in infrastructure to become a $5 trillion economy by 2025.

Issues Faced in infrastructure financing



Steps taken by Government in this regard

- National Infrastructure Pipeline (₹102 lac crore) launched.
- Indian Infrastructure Finance Company limited formed (IIFCL).

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- PPP models explored in various highways, airports, ports, etc.
- Infrastructure Debt funds promoted
- 5/25 scheme launched to facilitate banks' investment in infrastructure.
- Foreign investors allowed to invest in various sectors (liberalization of FDI)
- NIIF (National Investment & Infrastructure Fund) operationalized as fund of funds

Infrastructure in social & economic spheres is critical to India's sustainable growth. Hence, there is a need for more push to private sector & retail investors to tap the unused funds for infrastructure development

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

9. Investment in social infrastructure is key to engineer an inclusive and sustainable growth in India. Discuss. (150 words) 10

सामाजिक अवसंरचना में निवेश भारत में समावेशी और संधारणीय विकास की योजना बनाने के लिए अत्यंत आवश्यक है। चर्चा कीजिए।

social infrastructure (ex: health, education etc) is key to India's development as a welfare state in line with constitutional commitments under Directive Principles (Part IV).

Role of social infrastructure in inclusive & sustainable growth:-

↳ Focus on education & health
- ⇒ increase labor productivity
- ⇒ increase human capital
- ⇒ lead to inclusive growth.

↳ focus on human resource
- ⇒ skill development
- ⇒ leads to improvements in diversified sectors
- ⇒ pushes India's growth with reducing poverty & inequality.

↳ Focus on social infrastructure:
- ⇒ leads to concerns of every segment incorporated
- ⇒ Helps in inclusive policy setting

Don't write anything in this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

⇒ supplements sustainable growth
⇒ increases India's resilience

→ Enhancing social infrastructure
⇒ increases the coverage of populace
⇒ helps in sustaining growth.

Social Infrastructure has been even important after COVID-19 has shown us the fragile state of health & education sectors & the plight of migrant workers. There is a need to incorporate more funds for social infrastructure in National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) through private investments & government policy promotion.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. It is imperative that the present system is re-engineered and a transition towards Outcome Budgeting is made for effective Public Finance Management in India. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

यह आवश्यक है कि भारत में प्रभावी लोक वित्त प्रबंधन के लिए वर्तमान प्रणाली को पुनर्व्यवस्थित किया जाए और परिणाम बजट की दिशा में संक्रमण किया जाए। चर्चा कीजिए।

Outcome budgeting focuses on the qualitative outcomes of the budgetary expenditures.

Need for present system to be re-engineered:

- Bottom-up approach leading to high transaction costs.
- Outlays based budgeting lacks proper outcomes in terms of substantial gains on ground.
- Focus on spending rather than increasing its efficacy.
- Short-term & unviable approaches leading to wasteful expenditure.
- Redundant allocation leading to wastage of resources.

Outcome budgeting as solution for public finance management :-

- Increases scope of gains on ground.
- Social audits leading to positive feedback loop.
- Focus on quality leads to efficiency in expenditure.
- Increase in monitoring reduces wastages
- Corruption & misappropriation of resources easy to identify.

Outcome budgeting is need of hour for India to develop an efficient public finance management system & increase the efficacy of budgetary allocation.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

11. There have been indications of sluggish growth in labour intensive industries in India in recent times. Analyse the reasons behind this trend. What can be done to reverse the trend? **(250 words) 15**

हाल के दिनों में भारत के श्रम गहन उद्योगों में मंद वृद्धि के संकेत मिले हैं। इस प्रवृत्ति के लिए उत्तरदायी कारणों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। इस प्रवृत्ति को व्युत्क्रमित करने हेतु क्या किया जा सकता है?

India has been experiencing a declining growth led by consumption decline, lower exports, policy reforms, uncertainity at global level & many other factors.

This has also been seen in labor intensive industries (like textiles, leather & others).

Reasons behind the sluggish growth:

- Tough competition from economies like Bangladesh & Vietnam who have diversified their market & reduced costs. (in textile sectors).
- Global uncertainty & protectionism has reduced demand leading to fight for survival in some industries.
- lack of technology has reduced their competitiveness & the market share is stagnant (or declining)

→ Access to credit has been a lingering issue.

→ Skilled workforce lacking ⇒ lower productivity of labor ⇒ higher costs.

→ Policy focus has been majorly on bigger projects leading to lesser space for labor intensive industries

→ Globalization & liberalization has been constantly pushing the labor intensive industries on verge of 'death'.

→ Capital intensive growth of India has been a major reason.

(Steps to reverse the trend):-

↳ Skilling initiatives like SAMARTH of textile ministry.

↳ Policy framework supporting entry of new firms & reducing labor compliances

↳ Incentive to grow big & reap benefits of economies of scale.

↳ Providing credit (through formal sources) & easy compliance & relaxed norms.

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→ Focus on Research & Development to provide access to technology which doesn't replace labour but increases their productivity.

→ One District One Approach (or Cluster based approach) to reap benefits of traditional expertise & reduce costs.

Labor intensive industries are critical to India achieving a demography led growth & leveraging its dividend to make up an inclusive economy of $5 Trillion.

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12. While some associate increased penetration of technology and industrialization with increase in inequality in India, the reasons for the same lie somewhere else. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

यद्यपि कुछ लोग प्रौद्योगिकी और औद्योगीकरण की पैठ में वृद्धि को भारत में असमानता में वृद्धि के साथ संबद्ध करते हैं, तथापि इसके कारण कहीं और निहित हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

India has been lagging in various inequality indices (like Gender Inequality Index, Inequality adjusted HDI, Increasing Gini coefficient) & failing to provide growth for all.

Some argue this as a consequence of technology & industrialization.

(Their argument is):-

↳ Penetration of technology has led to gains for some but losses for many. For ex:- An employer gains but some employees are fired when a new machine is introduced.

↳ Technology led growth can be harmful for a populated country like India. Inequality will certainly grow more with increased mechanization.

↳ Services sector contributes about 55% but employs proportionally very less people

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leading to reinforcement of inequality.

→ Industrialization has led to class divide which is increasingly benefitting capitalists over working class.

→ The minimalist intervention approach might be harming India since 1991 & its effects are visible.

→ Gini's coefficient has been rising since 1980s which supports the argument.

However, the argument is not entirely correct.

Counter arguments are:-

↳ problem lies in the policy focus more than the access to technology

↳ Technology penetration in India is not that deep even today. Agriculture is highly subsistent even now.

↳ Industrialization has increased the jobs & led to inclusive growth in economies of East Asia hence at this critical juncture of India still not being properly industrialized,

the argument doesn't hold good.

→ Labor intensive sector are languishing due to ~~sm~~ lack of support & inability to cap market. Hence, cause might be something else.

→ Skill development in India is very low (more than 85% of ~~population~~ working class is not properly skilled). So, major challenge lies in industry oriented skilling.

Focus of policy should be on pulling the people up from poverty & avoiding stagnation of growth of middle class. Inclusive growth needs the integrated framework which involves state & private sector (CSR & inclusive marketing).

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. It has been argued that a fiscal stimulus can help revive the Indian economy and deal with the current slowdown. Discuss in context of prevalent situation. **(250 words) 15**

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि राजकोषीय प्रोत्साहन भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को पुनर्जीवित करने और वर्तमान स्लोडाउन (गिरावट) से निपटने में सहायता कर सकता है। वर्तमान स्थिति के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Fiscal Stimulus (based on Keynesian Economics) has been the norm throughout the world to pull country out of cyclical slowdown.

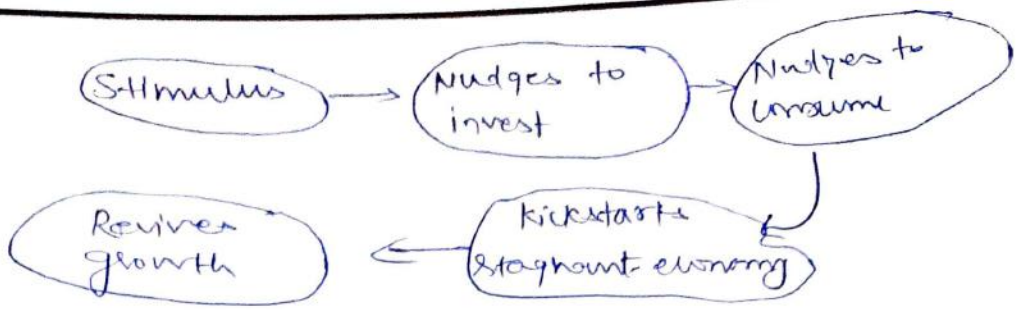
Fiscal Stimulus

↳ comprises → tax cuts
→ fiscal benefits
→ Easy loans
→ Incentives to consume
→ Support to demand
→ Incentive to invest.

Role of fiscal stimulus in reviving Indian economy

↳ India's growth trajectory has been downwards due to a mix of cyclical & structural factors.

↳ Focus on stimulus will push the private sector to invest & people to consume.



↳ Fiscal stimulus might push the inflation up & motivate corporate sector to supply.

↳ Stagnancy in economy due to people having less disposable income can be solved through tax incentives & focused interventions.

↳ The virtuous cycle of growth can be pushed up through spending on potentially labor intensive sectors so that money reaches to the poor & lower middle class since they have tendency to spend more & immediately.

↳ Schemes like MGNREGA & infrastructural development need to be incentivised to create assets & increase employment.

↳ However, structural issues could not be handled through fiscal stimulus.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Structural slowdown & problems needs to alleviated through :-

- Reforms on labour, regulations etc
- Focus on reskilling & upskilling
- Creation of diverse sectors.
- Tapping global value chain & its demand.

Fiscal Stimulus is not a panacea to the slowdown brought by a mix of cyclical & structural issues. Policy reforms like GST, Demonetization etc will take time to show results hence government needs proactive policy interventions with proper feedback from ground to pull Indian economy out of slowdown & avoid recession.

14. While public private partnership (PPP) in Indian Railways should be encouraged, there is a need to manage the transition to PPP model carefully. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

यद्यपि भारतीय रेलवे में सार्वजनिक निजी भागीदारी (PPP) को प्रोत्साहित किया जाना चाहिए, तथापि PPP मॉडल की दिशा में संक्रमण को सावधानीपूर्वक प्रबंधित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Indian Railways have been seeing PPP involvement in various forms like 150 passenger trains, Tejas, food delivery services etc.

PPP in Indian railways should be encouraged because:-

↳ Pushes the operational efficiency up (current operating ratio of Indian Railways is 96-98% in last 3 years which is one of the worst for any enterprise).

↳ Provides range of choices.

↳ Increases facilities & improves the maintenance.

↳ Avoid accidents (through private sector's proactive intervention) & help in ~~cons~~ customer safety.

↳ Build image of Indian Railways which is criticized on the basis of its lackluster performance, huge train delays & lack of hygiene in toilets etc.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

However, this transition is not going to be smooth because:-

- Problem of bureaucratic redtape still prevalent.
- opposition to privatization (due to fear).

Need to manage transition model carefully because;

- Might lead to increased costs which will make it inaccessible to general populace
- primary mode of transport for poors hence direct consequences on their livelihoods.
- Railways employs a large no. of employees & prime source of government employment hence fear of privatization may push it to a stop.
- Private trains & their efficiency has been still untested so it's too early to comment on the commensurate benefits.

↳ Inclusiveness & reduction in inequality requires consideration of the poorest section & hence the transition needs to be with incorporation of opinion from stakeholders, civil society & activists.

↳ Railways needs overhaul but no single organisation can replace even one sector of railways working. Hence, government needs to invest more rather than pulling hands.

Railways are the engine of Indian life in true sense. Hence, any step regarding PPP model or increasing private investment needs to be carefully analysed in terms of social, political & administrative costs.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. A worrying trend for Indian economy has been the decline in private investment in the past few years. Highlight the reasons behind it. What steps should be taken to revive private investment in the economy?

(250 words) 15

विगत कुछ वर्षों में निजी निवेश में गिरावट, भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए एक चिंताजनक प्रवृत्ति रही है। इसके लिए उत्तरदायी कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। अर्थव्यवस्था में निजी निवेश को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जाने चाहिए?

Private investment in India has declined to about 29% (in 2019) which is a cause of worry.

$(GDP)_{MP}$ = Private Consumption + Government consumption + Investment + (Export − Import)

Decrease in private investment has direct effect on GDP.

Reasons behind private investment decline:

↳ Policy uncertainty fuelled by reforms whose implementation is questioned by critiques.

↳ Reduced disposable income due to rise in wages being slower than rise in inflation.

↳ Problem of reinforcing of poverty due to unemployment & disruptions

→ Stagnancy & credit defaults by MSMEs leading to negligible growth & loss of wages.

→ Global demand reducing due to rise in protectionism leading to concerns in export oriented factories & people.

→ Frequent policy changes like NEMMP (National Electric Mobility Mission Plan) leading to reduced scope for investment

→ Problem of twin balance sheet depreciation

→ Reduced confidence in investors.

Steps to be taken to revive private investment :-

→ Facilitating credit flow (even though NPA problem is persistent).

→ Smoothening regulatory framework to streamline investments.

→ Confidence building measures through conferences with investors, corporates.

→ Policy with long-term predictability & support to industry to transition & align with the new policy

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Focus on Labor intensive industry which lead to money in people's hand & some enter through investment

→ Incentivizing investment through tapping the savings of middle class retail investors.

→ Financial inclusion of people & transparency to facilitate investments

→ Awareness about risks & increasing information dissemination.

→ Reducing crowding out of capital markets & autonomy to banks.

Indian economy has been seeing a gap in savings & investment always which needs to be leveraged to revive private investment. It is critical to India, it being a consumption led economy & government having fiscal constraints.

16. Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) in India are in need of urgent reforms addressing their regulatory, structural and operational issues. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में शहरी सहकारी बैंकों (UCBs) हेतु उनकी नियामकीय, संरचनात्मक और परिचालन संबंधी समस्याओं को दूर करने वाले तत्काल सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Urban cooperative Banks (UCBs) in India operate in urban & semi-urban areas deepening the financial inclusion & improving the formalization of Indian economy through facilitation of credit.

Regulatory issues in UCBs :-

- Regulation is very weak in comparison to commercial banks.
- Many norms are not followed by UCBs & disobeyed frequently due to lack of oversight.
- Multiple regulators (RBI, State Registrars) lead to lack of targetted intervention.

Reforms needed in regulation of UCBs :-

- Designate regulator & clearly identify responsibility
- Oversight over these needs to be improved & brought in sync with commercial banks.
- Improve their governance through model legislation & advisories.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Structural issues in UCBs :-

- Governance is politicized due to political interference in appointments.
- Lack of sources of credit due to cooperative culture.
- Problems in expansion due to lack of professionalism.

Reforms needed in structure of UCBs :-

- Appointments through transparent process.
- Involvement of regulators in overseeing the governance & monitoring regularly the potential issues.
- Warnings & frameworks designed must be notified.

Operational issues in UCBs :-

- Single branch or limited branches leading to low scope of formalization.
- Credit given to members based on approach & links leading to huge NPAs
- Vulnerable to fail due to local issues since localized presence.

Reforms suggested in operation of UCBs

- Focus on professionalism
- Asset classification & proper monitoring
- credit history & borrowers returning capacity needs to be evaluated.
- Offers of higher returns must be stopped to ensure viability in operation

Recent failure of PMC bank has brought the UCBs to limelight. central Government needs to frame legislation in consultation with States & RBI to promote professionalism in UCBs & protect the customers from issues plaguing the UCBs.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. Identify the factors that have facilitated digital financial inclusion in India. Mention the steps that have been taken by the government in this regard. What are the challenges that remain going forward? **(250 words) 15**

उन कारकों की पहचान कीजिए जिन्होंने भारत में डिजिटल वित्तीय समावेशन को सुगम बनाया है। इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए। ऐसी कौन-सी चुनौतियाँ हैं जो लगातार बनी हुई हैं?

India has seen a revolution in the form of digitalisation of financial transaction with the increase in sector being equal to what was envisaged to happen in 46-47 years.

Factors facilitating digital financial inclusion

↳ Penetration of mobile phones in India.

↳ Government policies (like Digital payment infrastructure (UPI, BHIM) & Government incentives such as Digigrahak yojana etc.

↳ Demonetization → played major role in behavioral change.

↳ Telecom industry → through its infrastructure & low Average Revenue per user (ARPU) of ₹112 (in 2019).

↳ Jandhan - Aadhar alliance.

Steps taken by Government :-

↳ UPI (Unified Payment Interface) brought to ease the digital transaction.

↳ BHIM app brought to initiate payments made workable even on simple mobile through *99#.

↳ Incentivising transactions through cashbacks; lucky Grahak schemes etc.

↳ Eliminating Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) to facilitate digital transaction.

↳ Removing charges on NEFT & RTGS by RBI on suggestion from Government

↳ RUPAY card launched to ensure functioning of Jandhan accounts.

→ Flagship scheme (Digital India) promoting digital infrastructure in financial transaction.

→ Policy intervention with exclusive focus on increasing digital transaction through limit on cash transactions.

Challenges remaining :-

↳ Security of digital platforms is the most prominent concern.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Increasing digital literacy to reduce frauds.

→ Reducing digital divide & countering inequality in rural & urban areas.

→ creating infrastructure to speed up network connectivity since data speed is a major concern.

Digital Financial inclusion has seen a manifold increase & is continuely growing. Government needs to promote awareness & facilitate access to digital gadgets to improve their use & also focus on their security to minimise fear of frauds.

Don't write anything in margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. Why is participation in Global Value Chains (GVCs) important for India? Highlighting some of the concerns associated with GVCs, suggest some measures for India to reap benefits from participating in them.

(250 words) 15

वैश्विक मूल्य श्रृंखलाओं (GVCs) में भागीदारी भारत के लिए क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है? GVCs से संबद्ध कुछ चिंताओं को रेखांकित करते हुए, भारत के लिए इनमें भागीदारी से लाभ प्राप्त करने के कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Global value chains have helped the growth of East Asian economies (ex Japan, China & South Korea) & are a path to prosperity for India too to leverage its demographic dividend.

Significance of GVCs for India:-

- Increase India's integration with world markets.
- Facilitate network products & increase value addition in India.
- Huge job opportunities.
- Technological benefits due to foreign investments.
- Routing of global products leading to India's increased earning of foreign exchange.
- Help in India's infrastructural development through investment.
- Absorb India's semi skilled labour.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Concerns associated with GVCs:-

- vulnerability to global shocks increase
- can lead to increase in volatility of rupee.
- India still shy to open various sectors where vulnerable section of population are engaged.
- can lead to increased volatility in Indian stock markets.
- may be problematic for MSMEs & some traditional sectors.

Measures for India to reap benefits of GVCs

- Focus on value chains to ascertain the specialization.
- Increasing demand oriented skilling.
- participating in value addition & small scale intervention rather than focusing on final products.
- opening up the economy & deserving sectors to create free flow of goods.

- Focus on increasing MSME participation in global value chains to integrate them.
- Policy making to reduce the intervention in labor laws, regulatory provision & various compliances.
- Exploring capital account convertibility & making rupee resilient.

Global Value Chains (GVCs) are critical to India's labor intensive growth & pushing people out of poverty by taking care of the increasing demography. GVC has potential to increase 5 crore jobs in India by 2025 so Government needs to consider this on priority basis through wider consultations at global level.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. What is the significance of state finances for macro-economic stability in India? Also, highlight the issues with states' fiscal management in India.

(250 words) 15

भारत में समष्टि-आर्थिक स्थिरता के लिए राज्य वित्त का क्या महत्व है? साथ ही, भारत में राज्यों के राजकोषीय प्रबंधन से संबद्ध मुद्दों को भी रेखांकित कीजिए।

Fiscal deficit of all the States in India has been 2.6% (well within target of 3% in FRBM for states) with a marginal revenue surplus for the last budget year.

Significance of state finances for macro-economic stability in India:-

- States being primary driver of service delivery in general have profound impact on stability of Indian economy.
- Increase in debt of states causes reduction in India's suitability for investment from foreign investors.
- States collectively form a big chunk of the India's budgetary expenditure & revenue.
- Wasteful expenditure by states may lead to increase in inflation & disruptions in market.

→ Targets for states are specifically defined through FRBM because in a federal arrangement state's share of finances involves responsibility too.

→ A cap of 20% debt to GSP ratio & 3% of fiscal deficit coupled with elimination of revenue deficit has been the target to increase resilience of indian economy.

→ Farm loan waivers, freebies & various populist schemes damages the credit culture, market formation & performance to a great extent.

Issues with state's fiscal management

↳ Despite being revenue surplus, the concern is that revenue has not increased but expenditure has decreased.

↳ Capital expenditure is declining & remains at abysmal value.

↳ Focus on populism damages the prospects of Indian economy.

↳ Poor budgetary allocations & informal way of budget spending leads to huge wastage.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Politicization & segmental allocation lead to disruption in societal balances, deprivation is visible.

→ Monitoring & oversight lacks leading to reduced implementation at ground level.

→ Management of finances is very dismal leading to loss in revenue.

→ Not enforcing property tax, providing concessions etc lead to constraints in funds.

State's are equal participants of India's growth trajectory & hence need to share equal responsibility along with centre to protect Indian economy from problems & ensure long-term macroeconomic sustainability with visible animal spirits in Indian economy.

20. Though Code on Industrial Relations, 2019 is aimed at reducing labour dispute as well as ease of doing business, it also restricts the collective bargaining power of the workers. Comment. **(250 words) 15**

यद्यपि औद्योगिक संबंध संहिता, 2019 श्रम विवादों को कम करने और साथ ही ईज़ ऑफ़ डूइंग बिज़नेस पर लक्षित है, तथापि यह श्रमिकों की सामूहिक सौदेबाजी की शक्ति को सीमित भी करती है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Code on Industrial Relations (2019), seeks to incorporate various laws on labor unions & employee - employer relations to provide a single comprehensive code.

Code on Industrial relations aims at reducing labor disputes as well as ease of doing business through:-

- Implementation of uniformity in labor laws leading to more awareness
- Defining fixed term employment & associated concerns.
- Delineating social security benefits to workers.
- Recognising trade unions with 25% of support & prevent the regular disruptions
- Recognise strike with support of more than 75% workers.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

↳ form negotiating team & intervention by Government in minor disputes

↳ Reskilling fund & wage security in case of retrenchment (15 day wage to be given)

↳ Provide window of negotiation & proper cycle to clause-by-clause discussion on issue-specific-concerns of industry.

However, critiques argue that it restricts the collective bargaining power of workers. This argument is based on following facts

↳ Act reduces scope of trade union formation by raising the amount of support required for recognition.

↳ Fixed term employment clause may lead to contractual workers.

↳ Strike & disruption have been avoided which will reduce the bargaining power of the workers

↳ Will affect the voice of workers & bring them in conflict with

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

legislations.

→ Might lead to an era of pre-1920s when labor exploitation was vehemently done & trade unions were ineffective due to legal loopholes.

Code on Industrial Relations (2019) has been a right step in rationalizing the numerous laws but it fails to incorporate labor concerns & is being termed as "appeasement to employers & employees both". Wider consultations & specific concerns needs to be deliberated to prevent any unforeseen situation in an already struggling Indian economy.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1417)

Name of Candidate	Arpit Gupta		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	638107
Center		Date	25/07/21

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Dadabhai Naoroji left an indelible imprint on the national movement. Explain. **(150 words) 10**
दादाभाई नौरोजी ने राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन पर एक अमिट छाप छोड़ी। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Dadabhai Naoroji, who was famously called Grand Old Man of India, was a principle figure in the initial stages of national movement in India.

Contributions

→ Formation of organizations in early 1860s to convey Indian issues
ex:- East India Association formed by him in London.

→ Became member of British Parliament & raised 'Indian Question' there.

→ wrote book 'Poverty & Unbritish Rule in India' where he highlighted the drain of wealth from India to Britain.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Became key member & president of Congress 3 times. Advocated for swaraj in 1906.

→ Wrote about India & mobilized intellectual opinion in favor of India & Indians.

Naoroji was prominent figure in India's freedom struggle & will continue to be remembered for his immense contribution.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2. The Quit India movement marked a new direction in the struggle against the British colonial rule in India. Analyse. **(150 words) 10**
भारत छोड़ो आंदोलन ने भारत में ब्रिटिश औपनिवेशिक शासन के विरूद्ध संघर्ष में एक नई दिशा को चिन्हित किया। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Quit India movement started in 1942 after failure of Cripps mission in satisfying Indian demand of full independence.

A new direction in following ways:

- Truly people's movement as all top leaders of congress in jail.
- Objective of 'Do or Die' rather that demanding concessions.
- It was pan-India with every corner of country putting hands behind movement.
- Support from Indian members in British administration rose which was to shake very back of British rule.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

↳ People from all Sections participated & women (like Aruna Asaf Ali & Usha Mehta) played key role.

↳ Huge Support from across the world poured in.
Ex:- Allied forces pushed Britain to look into demands.

However, Quit India reported violence which was a departure from non-violent strategy advocated by congress. It led to British giving in the demand ultimately.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3. The end of World War II marked the birth of a new international order. Examine. **(150 words) 10**
द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के अंत ने एक नई अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था को जन्म दिया। परीक्षण कीजिए।

World war – II (1939-45) started between superpowers (Britain, France vs Germany) but ended in birth of 2 new superpowers (US vs USSR).

New international order was shaped by:-

- Bipolar world emerged
  - 2 poles → US (Capitalist)
  - → USSR (communist)
- Decolonization of Africa & Asia
  Ex:- India gained independence in 1947.
- UN formed to make way for dialogue & alter possibility of world wars.
- NAM (Non-Alignment Movement) emerged to assert independance by newly independent countries.

WW-2 made Europe so weak that superpowers & imperials of the days were dependent on aids to revive

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Human rights concept evolved making the world aware of humaneness in humans.

→ Post-war cooperation made European rivalry disappear as economic interdependence increased

New world order (called cold war) was finally put to pause by collapse of USSR in 1991. Today, a multipolar world is emerging.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4. The Simla Agreement (1972) and Lahore Declaration (1999) are two key milestones in the history of the Indian subcontinent. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

शिमला समझौता (1972) और लाहौर घोषणा-पत्र (1999) भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप के इतिहास में दो महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धियां हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Shimla Agreement (1972) was signed between India & Pakistan after Bangladesh liberation war (1971) Lahore Declaration (1999) was signed in after math of emergence of 2 nuclear nations in subcontinent.

Importance of Shimla Agreement

- created new country Bangladesh from Eastern Pakistan.
- 'LOC' declared which continues to remain.
- Bilateral dialogue was envisaged as means of dispute resolution.
- Pakistan's surrender led to a key strategic gain for India.
- A harmonious & friendly relationship was to be borne out of it. (Although this failed due to Kashmir issue).

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Lahore declaration (1999)

- Tried to reduce high tempo build up after nuclear states of India & Pakistan ~~sta~~ agreed to avoid nuclear wars.
- Principle of peaceful co-existence envisaged.
- Shimla Agreement's spirit was to be followed.
- Moving towards development & avoiding conflicts through dialogue.

Both these are repeated time & again in context of subcontinent's issues & remain guiding light in darkness of relationship the 2 countries possess.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5. Social security should not only involve economic empowerment but also social empowerment. Discuss in the context of India. **(150 words) 10**
सामाजिक सुरक्षा में न केवल आर्थिक सशक्तीकरण अपितु सामाजिक सशक्तीकरण भी सम्मिलित होना चाहिए। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

SPSPs in India talk about social security (that hampers due to various issues that vulnerable sections face).

Social security means
- → Income security
- → Maintain productivity
- → Reduce distress
- → Help people take advantage of financial markets.
- → Formalization of employment.

These social security benefits help in economic empowerment but not social empowerment.

Evidences
- ↳ social ghettoization remains even after income support.
- ↳ Problems of discrimination still persist.
- ↳ Empowerment of people in social sphere for free/dignified living not ensured.

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Way forward

- Enriching social security schemes with components to address discrimination,
- Awareness to uproot exclusion in social sphere through economic gains.
- Targetted approach through government programmes like NRLM, MGNREGA various pension schemes focusing on the disparities at societal level.

Social empowerment is related to enhancing capability & reducing prejudices

Social status is important parameter to social security so focus should be towards holistic empowerment rather than only economic.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. Explain with examples how globalisation is manifested in both local in the global and the global in the local. (150 words) 10

उदाहरण देते हुए स्पष्ट कीजिए कि वैश्वीकरण वैश्विक में स्थानीय और स्थानीय में वैश्विक, दोनों में किस प्रकार प्रकट होता है।

Globalization encompasses glocalization, grobalization & exchange of ideas to evolve collectively.

'Local in the Global' manifestation

- Yoga Day celebrated across world & its popularity enhanced manifolds.
- Food habits like Chinese, Korean, Indian spreading across world.
- Movies of Bollywood being seen across the world. Ex:- Dangal movie in China.
- Indigenous system of medicines showing upthrust. Ex:- WHO creating knowledge bank to collect such practices.
- Festivals of India celebrated at other places: Ex:- UN issues Diwali ~~coins~~ stamps.

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Global in local :-

- Cosmopolitan culture
- Burger, pizza etc introduced from west to Asian countries.
- Nuclear families, individualism etc can be seen.
- Utiliterian lifestyle manifested.

A composite culture is evolving through globalization which is neither a 'melting pot' nor a 'salad bowl'.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

7. In light of persistence of various forms of violence against women in India, discuss the ways in which the issue can be addressed effectively.

(150 words) 10

भारत में महिलाओं के विरूद्ध हिंसा के विभिन्न रूपों की विद्यमानता के आलोक में, उन उपायों की विवेचना कीजिए जिनसे इस मुद्दे का प्रभावी ढंग से समाधान किया जा सकता है।

The ever-presence & acceptance of Patriarchal structure in Indian societal settings has led to various types of violence against women.

Forms of violence
- → Domestic violence
- → Sexual violence
- → Practices related violence (ex:- genital mutilation)
- → Psycho-logical violence

Cases of violence against women increase 7.3% in 2020 over 2019
Source: NCRB

Ways to address:

- ↳ legislative measures & policy strengthening & gap filling.
- ↳ Awareness & education of masses.
- ↳ Quickening justice delivery & reducing arbitrariness in application of law.

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- Increase women's economic independence.
- Creation of role models & campaigns to reform prejudiced thinking.

Current initiatives

- Legislations such as Sexual Harassment of women at workplace, Domestic violence, Dowry Act etc.
- Fast-track courts.
- Increasing women's LFPR through various initiatives.

The only way to remove discrimination (& violence) against women is to reform society which needs urgent & focused actions.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

8. What is an urban forest? Highlight its benefits and steps taken by the government to promote urban forestry in India. **(150 words) 10**
शहरी वन क्या हैं? इनके लाभों और भारत में शहरी वानिकी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Urban forests are the groups of trees or woodlands located in urban areas along streets, in parks, or at recreational places.

Benefits of urban forest:

- Reduces urban areas march towards ~~from~~ becoming heat islands.
- Helps in reducing pollution.
- Increases groundwater recharge
  - According to CWMF, many metropolitan to run out of groundwater by 2020.
- Enhances productivity of urban labor
- Economic benefits in terms of services provided by trees.
- Helps in reducing stress amid urban life's messy lifestyle.

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Steps taken

- Nagar van scheme
- Haryali portal for geotagging
- Establishing parks at regular intervals in city.
- forests in vacant space in urban areas through individual initiatives.

India can emulate examples of South Korea, China & ASEAN countries in urban forestry

SDG-11 talks about urban forests as way to reach sustainable living. Urgent actions required through community participation.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

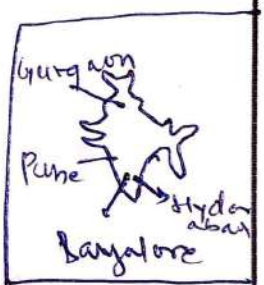
9. How has globalization impacted the location of the IT industry?
(150 words) 10

वैश्वीकरण ने IT उद्योग की अवस्थिति को किस प्रकार प्रभावित किया है?

India's IT industry is a net exporter & earns huge foreign exchange reserves due to its competitiveness & location.

Impact of globalization on IT-settings

- Easy flow of capital leading to IT industry setups in countries with cheap skilled labor.
  Ex:- India.
- Shaping of domestic countries' laws to suit IT-industry also brings IT-industry
- Global value chains having strong links with countries of IT-industry shows value chains' role in location.
- The availability of R&D facilities & ancillaries also has led to impact on IT-industry locations



India's IT hubs

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→ IT companies focusing on reducing costs & bringing innovations so favorable locations like Mexico selected.

So, globalization has eased expansion of IT-industry & their location across world.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. How can eco-tourism be used to sustainably harness the potential of tourism industry in India? Discuss the challenges and steps taken by the government in this context. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में पर्यटन उद्योग की क्षमता का संधारणीय रूप से दोहन करने हेतु पारिस्थितिकीय पर्यटन का कैसे उपयोग किया जा सकता है? इससे जुड़ी चुनौतियों और इस संदर्भ में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों की विवेचना कीजिए।

- Ecotourism is defined as tourism which sustains & preserves environment while improving societal well-being.

Ways to harness potential of eco-tourism

↳ India is ethnically & culturally diverse which helps in tourism.
  ↳ Eco-tourism will help conserving endangered practices of tribals

↳ India is one of 12 mega bio-diverse countries.
  ↳ Wildlife tourism in eco-friendly way will help in conserving species threatened with extinction

↳ Eco-tourism will help revive museums & prominent historic heritage of country.

↳ Eco-tourism will showcase India's composite & plural culture to increase tourism.

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Challenges faced
- Lack of capacity
- Eco-tourism not still well-known
- Informal tourism industry
- Huge waste generation
- Tribal culture
- Danger to wildlife

Steps taken by government
- Eco-tourism policy
- Focus on showcasing tribal culture
- Waste treatment & generation related norms
- Awards given.

Eco-tourism is to be practised with vigour through collaborative approaches.

India's tourism industry is huge & contributes 10% to GDP

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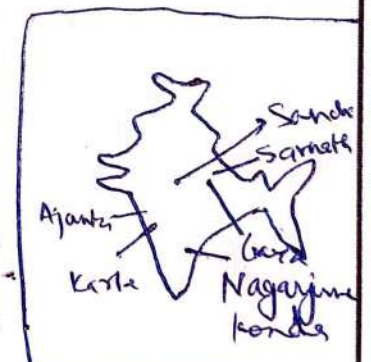
11. The advent of Buddhism and Jainism was instrumental in the development of architecture in ancient India. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

प्राचीन भारत में स्थापत्य कला के विकास में बौद्ध धर्म और जैन धर्म का उद्भव सहायक रहा। चर्चा कीजिए।

Advent of Buddhism & Jainism & their religious beliefs (600 BC onwards) led to development of architecture style & innovations.

Contribution of Buddhism

- Pillars: Monolithic pillars were erected by Ashoka where Buddhism was explained. Ex:- Sanchi, Lauria Nandangarh
- Caves (viharas & Chaityas) developed for Buddhist monks. Ex:- Karle, Ajanta.
- Stupas built to keep relics of Buddha. Ex:- Sanchi stupa
- Yaksha & Yakshini sculptures were famous during the time
- Gateways & railings with jataka stories.



Important Buddhist architecture sites

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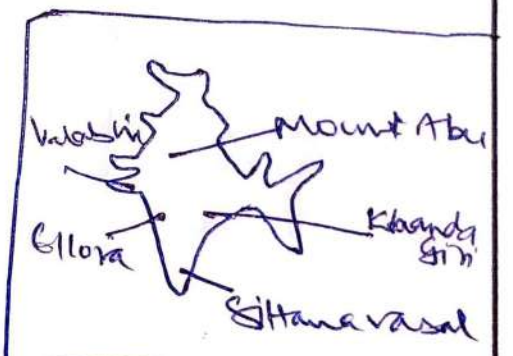
Contribution by Jainism

- Temple architecture of Jains can be seen at various places in North & South. Ex: Mount Abu Temple
- Cave architecture was also prevalent in Jainism and Chaitya halls for Jaina saints were there. Ex:- Udayagiri Khandagiri Caves in Odisha.
- Jains also erected pillars attached to their temples.



Important Jain architecture sites

- However, not all architecture during the ancient India was Buddhist & Jaina.

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- Stupas customs were already under Rigveda.
- Temple architecture developed during Guptas for Hinduism.
- Advent of Vaishnavism & Shaivism as prominent sects led to various development in architecture too.

Buddhist & Jain elements of architecture must be preserved as they still evoke awe to tourists.

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12. The reactionary policies of Lord Lytton and the liberal policies of his successor Lord Rippon acted as catalyst in the formation of the Indian National Congress. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

लॉर्ड लिटन की प्रतिक्रियावादी नीतियों और उसके उत्तराधिकारी लॉर्ड रिपन की उदार नीतियों ने भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस के गठन में उत्प्रेरक का कार्य किया। चर्चा कीजिए।

Lord Lytton was the Viceroy of India 1870s & he was followed by Lord Ripon.

Reactionary policy of Lytton & their effects

↳ Usage of Indian money to show British grandeur ex:- Delhi Durbar

↳ Misadventures like wars with Afghanistan to uphold British supremacy.

→ Arms Act (1878) which made possession of arms by Indians illegal without permission.

↳ Direct distinction b/w Indians & English.

→ Vernacular Press Act (1878) aimed at suppression of nationalist literature.

↳ Exempted English Press which showed his prejudice.

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↳ Imperial civil services age was reduced again making it difficult for Indians to enter ICS.

All this created huge uproar against British.

(Liberal policy of Ripon (1880-84):-)

↳ Repealed vernacular press Act & hence allowed the dissent to burst out in form of literature

↳ Local governance i.e. self government introduced at local levels.

↳ This created demands for self-governance at upper levels

↳ Passing of Ilbert Bill which removed distinction between trial of British & Indian subjects.

↳ Controversy after bill made Indians aware of true face of white supremacists.

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The policies of Ripon created environment of confidence amongst Indians which coupled with discontent among them for British rule led to formation of Congress (1885).

Other factors like role of A.O. Hume, Naoroji etc also played role in Congress' formation.

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13. Gandhiji changed his methods of struggle against the British from time-to-time to suit the varied circumstances and problems that needed to be tackled. Analyse. **(250 words) 15**

गांधी जी ने विभिन्न परिस्थितियों और समस्याओं जिनसे निपटने की आवश्यकता थी, के अनुकूल समय-समय पर अंग्रेजों के विरूद्ध संघर्ष की अपनी विधियों में परिवर्तन किया। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Gandhiji, the face of Indian Freedom Struggle, was key architect of the movements after 1920 till independence which showed his prowess & understanding of the situation.

(Initial days of struggle)

↳ Gandhiji used his policy of satyagraha, hunger strike, non cooperation & civil disobedience to test them in Indian conditions on a small scale through Champaran Satyagraha, Ahmedabad mill strike, Kheda etc.

↳ In these movements, he found the suitability of these weapons which he had learnt during his stay in South Africa.

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1920s – 1930s

- Gandhiji used his strategy to launch nationwide Non Cooperation movement in 1920 but violence in 1922 stopped the movement.
- He understood the importance of educating masses about non-violence & making them ready for movement
- During civil disobedience (1920), this lders took a prominent shape & Irwin-Gandhi pact was signed.
- The strategy of Struggle – Break – Struggle was now tested to be giving results.

1940s onwards:

- After August Offer failed to satisfy Indians, he launched individual Satyagraha because he didn't want to trouble British during WW-2 as it was against Nazism which is he truly disliked.

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→ After Cripps Mission's failure (1942), he went all out with 'Do or Die' & launched Quit India movement which was a marked shift to demand ~~by~~ full independence by directly confronting British.

Thus, Gandhi used various tactics to defeat Britishers morally & hence succeeded in gaining independence for India with violence.

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14. Bring out the relationship between the industrial revolution and the advent of imperialism in different parts of the world. **(250 words) 15**
औद्योगिक क्रांति और विश्व के विभिन्न भागों में साम्राज्यवाद के आरंभ के मध्य संबंधों को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Industrial Revolution was a philip to the imperialism as the need for markets & raw materials led to planned colonialist strategies & competition among western European powers.

Industrial Revolution & imperialism relationship :-

- factory needed raw materials which was not enough in Europe to feed factories hence search for resources led to colonial occupation.
- Colonial occupation could also provide markets to sell goods.
- Event in world like civil war in America led to boost in cotton production in India (particularly western India).

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→ Industrial revolution led to advanced European naval power & military equipments which helped in occupying territories.

→ Industrial revolution led to search for new places & more & more discoveries were made of islands (strategic locations) which were colonised.

→ Huge infrastructural project could be undertaken through the technology brought by industrial revolution which helped British deepen control over colonies.
Ex- Railways in 1853 helped British move deeper into villages

As soon as Japan became industrialised its imperial hunger increased & hence it started occupying colonies in East Asia & South-East Asia.

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→ Aim to spread Christianity & establish White Superiority led the industrialized powers to spread in Asia & Africa.

Although, Industrial Revolution was one of the main reason, there were other reasons too for imperialism since it existed before industrial revolution

The race of Imperialism which started after industrial revolution partly ended after World War-II but ambitions continue today..

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15. The caste system in India has continued to persist by adapting itself to a variety of changing socio-economic and political conditions in the past few decades. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में जाति व्यवस्था विगत कुछ दशकों में परिवर्तित होती विभिन्न सामाजिक-आर्थिक और राजनीतिक स्थितियों के अनुरूप अपने आपको ढालकर विद्यमान है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Caste system is a hierarchy based system based on concept of 'purity & pollution'.

Various global & local events & changes have been seen but the caste has continued & the social stratification still persists although weakened.

Adaptation of caste system seen in following ways:-

Political conditions

- Initial decades of independence saw dominance of upper castes in political sphere with few dalit & backward stalwart leaders.
- Coalition government & evolution of caste based parties led to transformation in political sphere.
- caste identities were strengthened

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

through caste based mobilization of voters behind political party.

↳ Distinction of caste led to stratification in political spheres. Ex:- BSP formation

Socio-economic:-

↳ Caste based occupation started diluting post-independence but the lower castes entering services (meant for upper castes) led to caste consciousness in offices. Ex: Dalit Panthers movement

↳ Caste system has converted into class system but stratification still persists.

Ex:- Most urban areas have slums inhabited predominantly by lower castes.

↳ Affirmative action (reservation) taken to uplift lower castes led to use of caste as identity by groups leading to strengthening of caste.

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Other side of coin

- assertion of secularization of caste
- increased awareness
- lessening caste boundaries
- increasing inter-caste marriage

Caste system may seem diluted but the identity based on caste remains in the society.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

16. It is argued by some that regionalism is a threat to national integrity while others consider it as a highly impactful tool in facilitating political participation. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

कुछ लोगों द्वारा यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि क्षेत्रवाद राष्ट्रीय अखंडता के लिए एक खतरा है, जबकि अन्य लोग इसे राजनीतिक सहभागिता को सुगम बनाने में एक अति प्रभावशाली साधन मानते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Regionalism is a political term which shows interests of a region or a subnational entity. India's diverse culture is one of the key ~~region~~ reason for regionalism.

Regionalism a threat to national integrity :-

↳ Brings regional feelings above national feelings & hence can be harmful for national interest.

Ex:- Reservation for locals.

↳ Agressive regionalism can even fuel secessionism if not dealt with effectively.

Ex:- Punjab (Khalistan).

↳ Regionalism can affect security & can be a potent threat.

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Ex:- North-East.

- Regionalism leads to rise of coalition politics at national level which fuels instability in political setup.
- Regionalism is threat to India's composite culture. ex:- Anti-Bihari sentiments in Maharastra.

Regionalism can act as tool of National unity by:-

- It increases competition among states & hence leads to rapid development and people-centric governance.
- Sometimes, regionalism is legitimate & bring government's attention to ignored areas. Ex:- Vidarbha.
- Regionalism of areas can help in collectively building nations.

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→ Regionalism instills pride & evokes service towards nation,

→ Regionalism strengthens democracy by bringing enhanced debates on country's issues.

Regionalism is an obvious phenomenon in diverse country like India but it needs to properly checked & dealt to prevent it from becoming threat.

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17. Natural gas has become an important primary energy source and its consumption is projected to increase further. Identify various usages of natural gas and give a brief account of its distribution globally.

(250 words) 15

प्राकृतिक गैस एक महत्वपूर्ण प्राथमिक ऊर्जा स्रोत बन गया है तथा इसके उपभोग में आगे और वृद्धि होने का अनुमान है। प्राकृतिक गैस के विभिन्न उपयोगों की पहचान कीजिए और विश्व स्तर पर इसके वितरण का संक्षिप्त विवरण दीजिए।

Natural Gas is a clean fossil fuel & forms important constituent of India's energy basket (6% of total energy).

Usage of natural Gas

- As fuel for power generation.
- As fuel for industries such as fertilizer, plastic etc.
- Usage in household as LPG.
- Usage in vehicles as CNG.
- Ingredients in dyes & many other industries.

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Distribution of natural gas Globally :-

- Russia: largest natural gas reserves. Gas fields in west Siberia
- US : largest producer of natural gas.
- Canada & Mexico : Important producers
- Middle east : Many natural gas & oil reserves located simultaneously. Iran & Qatar are important producers.
- Africa – Not significantly explored but huge potential.
- Asia :
  - ↳ India has gas reserves in West coast & on East coast (Krishna-Godavari basin).
  - ↳ South-East Asia is important producer.

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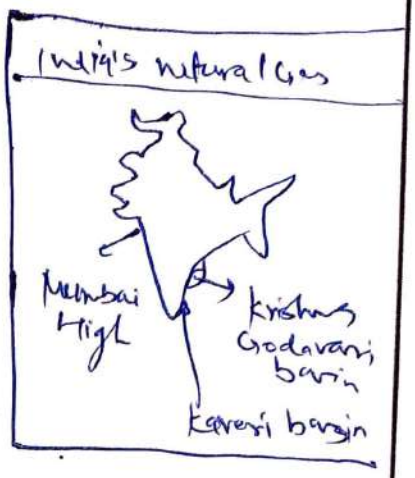
Natural gas is more evenly distributed than other fossil fuels & hence has immense potential to be fuel of future.



There is a need to increase exploration & make natural gas production even higher to make India a gas based economy similar to other developed economies.

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18. Describe the process of rift valley formation, with special emphasis on the Great Rift Valley System. **(250 words) 15**

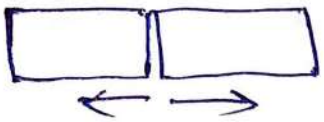
महान भ्रंश घाटी प्रणाली पर विशेष बल देते हुए, भ्रंश घाटी के निर्माण की प्रक्रिया का वर्णन कीजिए।

Rift valley is a depressed area between two adjacent highland areas. It is formed due to tectonic plates' movement.

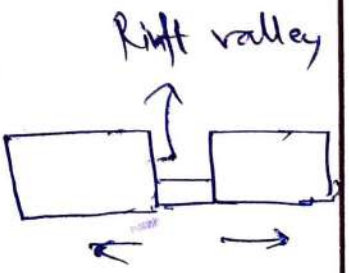
They are found both on earth & under water. Ex:- East African rift valley, Narmada rift valley.

Process of rift valley formation:-

↳ Divergent plates start moving from each other



↳ These divergent plates when make significant movement create a rift valley



River starts flowing usually through this

↳ After long time this converts into sea.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

↳ At transform boundaries, the rift valley are formed due to grinding of plates & creating of faults.

Great rift valley system:

This system lies in eastern Africa & extends from horn of Africa to south till Mozambique.

Eastern rift

Called eastern African rift. Continent of Africa splitting into two parts from here.

Western rift

formed at African lakes. Has huge biodiversity in areas

This rift valley is very old & accompanied by huge volcanism.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Plate boundaries give rise to various landforms which are to be seen over a larger period of time.

19. India's water resources have witnessed rapid depletion due to a mix of economic, geographic, and political factors. Explain and discuss its implications. **(250 words) 15**

भारत के जल संसाधनों में विभिन्न आर्थिक, भौगोलिक और राजनीतिक कारकों के संयोजन के कारण तेजी से ह्रास देखा गया है। स्पष्ट कीजिए एवं इसके निहितार्थों की विवेचना कीजिए।

India's per capita water availability is below 1400 cubic metre & gone below 1100 cubic metre in some areas.

Factors responsible

Economic:-

→ Huge water in irrigation since less awareness of conservation & suitability of crops in area.

→ Due to commercialization of agriculture water usage increased.. EX: sugarcane production.

→ Rapid urbanization for economic gains taking toll on water.

→ Industrial usage & lack of water treatment.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Geographical factors:-

- Seasonal river system in central & southern part of country.
- less rainfall & non-availability of groundwater in some areas due to terrain.
- Monsoonal rain which are unpredictable.
- Diversion of water at potential places for hydroelectricity.
- Global warming increasing variability of rainfall.

Political factors:-

- Use of farmers as vote bank leading to immediate benefits disbursal.
- lack of reforms in agriculture
- Subsidies on power consumption eg:- Punjab.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Water policy & comprehensive efforts lacking.
→ corruption in conservation projects & lackluster implementation.

Implication:-

→ lower agricultural productivity
→ land degradation & salinity
→ water scarcity & unsafe water consumption.
→ Huge conflicts due to water.
Ex/- Krishna water dispute.
→ Diseases due to unsafe water.

Formation of Jal Shakti ministry is a right step. Many more such steps & policies are required to direct government efforts to visible solutions on ground.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. How are plateaus formed? Also, briefly discuss the features of the Deccan plateau and its economic significance. **(250 words) 15**

पठार का निर्माण कैसे होता है? साथ ही, दक्कन के पठार की विशेषताओं और इसके आर्थिक महत्व की संक्षेप में विवेचना कीजिए।

Plateau is a flat elevated landform which is higher than plains but not as high as mountains.

Formation of plateau:-

→ volcanism produces lava plateau. Ex:- Deccan plateau formation

→ crustal shortening: Thrusting of one rock on other & folding of rocks. Ex:- Tibetan Plateau

→ Expansion of hot material below surface leading to uplift of overlying surface. Ex:- Abyssinian Plateau.

→ Plateau due to erosion of old mountains & other hilly areas.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Features of Deccan plateau:-

- formed of basic lava.
- Extends through Indian peninsula & covers vast amount of Indian territory.
- Divided into various part based on regional features
- Black soil present.

Economic significance

- Huge mineral resource present in plateau region.
  Ex:- Chotanagpur plateau → coal, iron etc.
- Black soil has water detention capacity & hence cotton is grown extensively in the region.
- coarse grain also grown in the region.
- presence of various industries in the area Ex:- Pune hub.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

→ Rivers formed fertile deltas & hence extensive agriculture taken up.

→ Groundwater trapped in underlying rocks.

→ Rock-cut architecture & tourist places which attract people across world.

Deccan plateau is one of the key areas of habitation & contributes to India's economy.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1523)

Name of Candidate	Arpit Gupta		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	638107
Center		Date	26/12/20

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका विवरण प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम को स्पष्ट रूप से प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. Enumerate the issues associated with functioning of the Central Information Commission. How can these issues be addressed?

(150 words) 10

केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग की कार्य प्रणाली से संबद्ध मुद्दों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। इन मुद्दों का कैसे समाधान किया जा सकता है?

Central Information Commission was formed by the RTI Act (2005) & is a statutory body which promotes public disclosure of information & enquires into complaints.

Issues associated with its functioning :-

- Being hindered due to delays in appointment ex- SC recently scolded government for this.
- Proactive disclosure of information still not done by public officer.
- limited powers to CIC in punishing the violators.
- The conflict with Official secrets Act leads to hampering of the transparency expected.
- CIC's independence in question after recent amendments giving executive the power to decide on their service conditions & salary

↳ Reduced status which was earlier equal to EC.

(Steps for redressal):-

↳ Providing security of tenure & service conditions which were taken away recently to ensure independence

↳ Timely appointment

→ Proactive disclosure of information through appointing of PIOs.

↳ Burden of cases on CIC must be eased through change in bureaucratic functioning.

C/C is very important for transparency & accountability in governance. Its proper functioning is critical to the functioning of vibrant democracy.

2. In India, Governor's discretionary powers are wider than those of the President. Elaborate. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में, राज्यपाल की विवेकाधीन शक्तियाँ राष्ट्रपति की तुलना में अधिक व्यापक हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Governor's discretionary powers are mentioned in Art 163 of the Constitution while President has no discretionary power mentioned in Constitution (although it has situational discretion).

Discretionary powers of Governor vs President :-

- Governor's power on ordinary bills & money bill are wider & discretionary while President is bound.
- Governor's discretionary power to report state's functioning is not available to President in case of President
- Governor's discretionary powers related to autonomous districts & scheduled areas are not available to President which acts on advice of council of Ministers.
- Governor's discretionary power to administer UTs are not available to President.

However, both have situational discretion which are:-

- Governor & President both can send messages & ask for report from the executive.
- Both can use suspensive veto.
- Both use their discretion when deadlock over government formation is present.
- Both determine the scope of functioning of caretaker governments.

Hence, President has also got powers to exercise in discretion but they are less & situational while Governor's discretionary power are exercised in day-to-day functioning too.

3. Highlight the objectives that were sought to be achieved through tribunals. How successful have they been in meeting them? **(150 words) 10**

उन उद्देश्यों को रेखांकित कीजिए जिन्हें अधिकरणों के माध्यम से प्राप्त करने का प्रयास किया गया था। वे उन्हें पूर्ण करने में कितने सफल रहे हैं?

Tribunals in India have been established through Art 323A & 323B of the constitution.

→ 323A (Administrative tribunals) → By centre
→ 323B (Other tribunals) → By both centre & States.

Objectives sought through tribunals:-

- Easing the burden of regular court
- Using experts of the field for technical case ex- telecom expert for TDSAT.
- Using speedier justice delivery for particular field oriented case.
- Increasing efficiency of judicial system
- Reducing the costs involved.
- Help in case of Doing Business.

Success of tribunals

- Helped in easing pressure on judiciary
- Have worked for improvement of

of specific areas ex:- NGT for environment & NCLT for company disputes.

- Have increased ease of doing business
- Reduced the justice delivery time
  ex: Average time in case is quite less than regular courts.

(Failure of tribunals):-

- Separation of powers violated.
- Conflict of interest as government is a major litigant & it appoints tribunal members.
- Judicial independence in danger
- Cases of judicial overreach ex- Recently said by SC.
- Same age-old procedure & no innovation leading to slower pace.
- Proliferation leading to lack of management.

Tribunals are needed to help judicial system but they must be consolidated & reformed to be an effective & efficient justice delivery mechanism.

4. Instead of the government regulating Over-the-top (OTT) platforms, there have been calls for a self-regulating mechanism for such platforms, as in the case of print media. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

सरकार द्वारा ओवर-द-टॉप (ओ.टी.टी.) प्लेटफॉर्म्स को विनियमित करने के स्थान पर, ऐसे प्लेटफॉर्म्स के लिए एक स्व-विनियमन तंत्र हेतु आह्वान किया गया है, जैसे कि प्रिंट मीडिया के मामले में किया गया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

OTT platforms have been penetrating into Indian market democratizing content creation & delivering them to audience. Ex:- Amazon prime, Netflix.

Arguments favoring self-regulation:-

↳ Cross-border content so difficult for government to ban/regulate.

↳ user's discretion allowed.

↳ Private space (i.e. mobile) so people must be free to consume.

↳ It has given support to small content creators & democratized the space hence regulation must not hamper it

↳ Democratic country so self-restraint will be better way.

Arguments favoring government regulation

↳ Harmful content delivered (can cause radicalization too).

→ privacy must be limited otherwise people can cross limits.
↳ Children affected by seeing vulgarity & abusive scenes.
↳ Too decentralized so anyone can access hence regulation needed.
↳ Movies & other similar content is regulated so it can also be regulated.

Recently Government has introduced norms to regulate OTT platforms to curb child pornography, objectification, promotion of drugs etc. There is a need to widely consult & take the industry into confidence so as not to hamper creativity.

5. Bring out the arguments surrounding the issue of some states reserving jobs for locals in the private sector. **(150 words) 10**

कुछ राज्यों द्वारा निजी क्षेत्रक में नौकरियों को स्थानीय लोगों के लिए आरक्षित किए जाने से संबंधित मुद्दे के चतुर्दिक तर्कों को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Recently Haryana govt has proposed to reserve 75% jobs for locals in private sector. This has brought regionalism & son of soil theory into public debate.

Arguments favoring reservation of jobs for locals in private sector :-

- locals have first right over the resources (that can be job).
- locals getting jobless due to migration & job taken up by migrants at lower wages.
- locals will have more understanding of local markets & can be efficient

Arguments against reservation of jobs for locals in private sector :-

- Against the idea of India where everyone is same within India.
- Hampers the unity of country & props up parochialism.

- lead to reduced flexibility of private sector since local pool is limited.
- Industries may shift from those states & may even go out.
- lead to further losses of revenue in states & to centre also because of reduced productivity

Jobs reservation for locals is not a viable alternative to increase employment. Alternate methods like skilling, area specific industrial development & balance in development of country are the ways to reach the target envisaged.

6. Identifying the key elements of Mission Karmayogi, briefly explain how it can lead to holistic development of the human resources and state's capacity. **(150 words) 10**

मिशन कर्मयोगी के प्रमुख तत्वों की पहचान करते हुए, संक्षेप में स्पष्ट कीजिए कि इससे मानव संसाधन और राज्य की क्षमता का समग्र विकास कैसे हो सकता है।

Mission Karmayogi is the recently launched scheme by Government to transform 'rules based' bureaucracy to 'roles based' through continuous training & workshops.

Key elements:

- HR management to see role based appointments.
- iGOT platform to deliver content
- Taking up courses to help in performance appraisal.
- To enhance the functioning of system through abandoning of old lax culture.

Role of Mission Karmayogi in holistic development:-

- will help identify the individual potential & build upon it
- will enhance the government's productivity to proper solution for

different roles.

→ will help in improving the skills of bureaucrats & train them for more open/transparent behavior.

→ will help enriching performance based evaluation & enhance productivity at work.

→ impart managerial skill to public servants to make them an effective combination of both.

Mission karmayogi will be a game changer in the field of bureaucratic reforms however it depends on civil servants self discipline to follow contents online & apply them.

7. Highlighting the role played by ASHA workers in public health system of India, discuss the challenges faced by them. **(150 words) 10**
भारत की सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली में आशा कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका को रेखांकित करते हुए, उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए।

ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) are workers appointed in a village or group of villages through National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to look after the primary health needs of the area (including delivery & immunization).

Role played by ASHA workers:-

- Key role in spreading reproductive awareness & spacing in birth.
- Enhanced institutional delivery by 15%.
- Increased immunization leading to fall in IMR & MMR (IMR fell to 28/1000 in 2019 & MMR fell to 113 per lakh in 2016-18 period).
- Help in contraceptive delivery at home & increasing awareness about preventive health among rural population.

Challenges faced by ASHA workers?

- low honorarium leads to less motivation to work.
- No social security to them.
- huge record maintenance.
- work overload as they are given various tasks at hand.
- lack of logistics with them leads to problem.

ASHA workers played pivotal role in health services delivery in rural & far flung areas. There is a need to increase their honorarium & equip them digitally to reduce their register maintenance role & effectively increase their efficiency.

8. While internationalisation of higher education has many potential benefits for India, certain challenges will need to be addressed in this regard. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

यद्यपि उच्चतर शिक्षा के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण के भारत के लिए कई संभावित लाभ हैं, तथापि इस संबंध में कुछ चुनौतियों का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता होगी। चर्चा कीजिए।

With the launch of Institute of Eminence Scheme & Government's vision to break into top 100 institutions the debate on internationalization of higher education is in public arena.

Benefits of internationalization of higher education:-

- Increase acceptability of Indian degrees.
- Help in market relevant skilling in colleges.
- Increase mobility of student leading to positive culture of research & development
- Enhanced pool of resources to operate with better human capital.
- will help technological advancement in India & increase autonomous functioning.
- Will increase jobs & industries location.

Challenges:-

- to reorient education system to international standards.
- to make colleges & categorize them to provided graded autonomy for international collaboration.
- to train professors & PhD students to compete internationally.
- to increase research & development fund.
- to reduce bureaucratic interference & affiliation system (as envisaged in NEP 2020).

NEP 2020 advocates the acceptance of international degrees & credit to increase interoperability & enhance standards in India. It must be implemented for better educational scenario in India.

9. India needs to adopt a more pragmatic stance in the context of the ongoing intra-Afghan talks. Discuss, in the light of India's engagement with Afghanistan. **(150 words) 10**

भारत को वर्तमान में जारी अंतरा-अफगान वार्ताओं के संदर्भ में अधिक व्यावहारिक रुख अपनाने की आवश्यकता है। अफगानिस्तान के साथ भारत के जुड़ाव के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

India's stance of Afghan led, owned & Afghan controlled dialogue has been in darkness now as Afghan government engages with Taliban under US proposals.

Need to change India's stance:-

- worldwide support to the ongoing talks (even Russia has supported this ignoring Indian concerns).
- India's stance is a bit ideal which might not work now.
- India needs to engage with Taliban to avoid any complications at later stages (as Khalilzad mentioned).
- India's interest & stakes in Afghanistan demand India being higher placed in the ongoing talks which would need a more pragmatic stance.
- India must support initiative for peaceful & stable Afghanistan.

India's stand :-

↳ India has signalled that it can engage Taliban & recognize it to enhance the negotiations.

↳ India's concerns are adequately addressed only when India itself goes on table.

Basis of India's current stand

↳ India wants to make Afghanistan a peaceful, democratic country.

→ Taliban might bring back Sharia & lead to subjugation of minorities etc.

↳ legitimacy to taliban threatens India's internal issues (like Kashmir).

India's stand is defined by its dream of a stable democratic & secular Afghanistan but seeing current scenario India has to engage with Taliban to secure its interests & reduce anti-India problems (as Taliban has also shown desire to talk to India).

10. In the geo-strategic context of West Asia, the recent efforts to normalise relations between Israel and UAE may open new possibilities for India. Analyse. **(150 words) 10**

पश्चिम एशिया के भू-रणनीतिक संदर्भ में, इजरायल और यू.ए.ई. के मध्य संबंधों को सामान्य बनाने के लिए हाल ही में किए गए प्रयासों से भारत हेतु नई संभावनाएं उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Recently UAE became the first gulf state to recognize Israel & 3rd Arab state after Jordan & ~~Lebanon~~ Egypt.

New possibilities for India :-

- leads to stability & peace in West Asia which India desires.
- Both Israel & UAE have good relations with India so the deal will be a positive for Indian interests.
- India can now more proactively engage West Asia to invest in India & oil diplomacy.
- India's interest in maritime domain strengthened with cooperation among Israel & UAE with India to counter piracy, security threats etc.
- India can now demand more in terms of stand on terrorism & engage West Asia against terrorism.

(Concerns which remain) :-

↳ Saudi's engagements with Israel still unclear.

↳ India supports cause of Palestine which may dilute due to these developments.

↳ Indian interests & stakes in Iran (Chabahar port, road to Central Asia) may hamper due to Arab-Israel alliance against Iran.

India needs to dehyphenate its policy in West Asia & take calculated risks in foreign policy because of the fragility of West Asian polity & unclear agenda.

11. It is not only the content of election manifestos but also the past performance with respect to promises made in election manifestos that need to be regulated. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

केवल चुनावी घोषणा-पत्रों की विषयवस्तु को ही नहीं, बल्कि चुनावी घोषणा-पत्रों में किए गए वादों से संबंधित विगत निष्पादन को भी विनियमित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The electoral promises, manifesto & performance are the areas which affect the political discourse & people's choice the most.

Content of election manifesto need to be regulated because:-

- It may contain corrupt practices & unviable promises (under RPA 1951) & promising communal things.
- It may lead to unfavorable advantage to certain party & degrade the political discourse.
- It can distract from real issues.
- It may cheat the voters.

However, the past performance also needs to be regulated which was promises in election manifestos since

- It leads to better control on fake & illusive promises which

tend to disrupt the political discourse.

↳ It may lead to loss of genuine candidates since blatant misuse of past performance is done.

↳ It will lead to reduction in winnability of people with money & muscle power (i.e. gangsters).

↳ It will reduce corruption in politics & help EC conduct fairer elections

↳ It will bring the political electoral debates towards major issues of importance like jobs, education, women etc.

But there has been concern towards regulating past performance with respect to promises made in election manifesto.

Concerns are :-

↳ It is not easy to quantify the performance

↳ Candidates & parties have planned escape routes.

↳ There is a possibility of blame game

& allegation on EC.

→ EC with little capacity is unable to regulate such things.

→ There will be various issues surrounding political accountability & debates on public accountability vs institutional mechanism.

There is a need to widely consult the arena of electoral promises, past performances & their regulation in civil society domain & bring effective reforms to make Indian politics more fair to new entrants.

12. In order to achieve a reduction in the pendency of cases and a return to the Supreme Court's original role as a final appellate court, setting up of a National Court of Appeal is the need of the hour. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

लंबित वादों की संख्या में कमी लाने और उच्चतम न्यायालय को अंतिम अपीलीय न्यायालय के रूप में उसकी मूल भूमिका में पुन: स्थापित करने के लिए, एक राष्ट्रीय अपील न्यायालय स्थापित करना समय की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Supreme Court under Art 130 has the power to form regional benches (power exercised by CJI with approval of President).

Need of appellate court & constitutional court in different capacity:-

↳ With the proliferation of tribunals & cases in HC/subordinate courts there has been huge pressure on SC.

↳ 57,987 cases pending in SC (according to National Judicial Data Grid 2018).

→ SC's work as constitutional court hampered due to appeals & special leave petitions.

→ Case of resolving cases & justice delivery needed.

→ Work load should be reduced to effect proper functioning

Advantages of setting up National Court of Appeal :-

- law commission has supported its creation to deal with the appeal cases & help SC to exercise its original constitutional court's function.
- It will reduce judiciary's workload & help in faster resolution of cases.
- Branches of National court of Appeal will help in wider access to delivery.
- Affordability will increase due to reduction in transportation costs.
- Enhance the credibility of judicial system which as NCRWC said is on verge of collapse.

Concerns of SC in creation of National court of Appeal :-

- SC said it fears that unity & integrity of the court will be affected due to bifurcation.
- It also highlighted the regional influence & pressure on the court

which may lead to further erosion in trust on SC.

Addressing the concerns →

→ Even HC ~~seat~~ sit in benches but it doesn't hamper unity Ex:- Allahabad HC & Lucknow bench.

→ If regional pressure is eminent, cases can be transferred because it's solely in CJI's hands.

As Vice President recently remarked, SC needs to be proactive & delivery of justice through various benches must be ensured to save the justice system of India from reducing credibility.

13. The Constitution of India reflects an amalgamation of spirit of Indian freedom struggle and various administrative provisions of different acts of British rule in India. Explain. **(250 words) 15**

भारत का संविधान भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष की भावना और भारत में ब्रिटिश शासन के विभिन्न अधिनियमों के अनेक प्रशासनिक प्रावधानों के मिश्रण को दर्शाता है। व्याख्या कीजिए।

Constitution of India has been prepared by experts who had whole experience of the laws & legislation of British era & hence its effect is eminent in our constitution.

Element of various administrative provision of different acts of British rule :-

↳ Indian Council ~~Act for~~ Act (1861) → Brought ordinance making power which is now in our constitution too.

↳ Indian council Act (1892) → brought discussion & voting on budgets (In short budget system) which is continuing till date.

↳ Government of India Act (1919) :-

Brought provincial subjects & federal subject which later were incorporated in Indian constitution. It also laid recruitment for provincial services & Federal services to be different which

is now adopted.

↳ Government of India Act (1935):-
- ↳ Emergency provisions taken from here
- ↳ 3 subjects system
- ↳ Bicameral legislature
- ↳ Federal public service commission
- ↳ Highest court of Appeal (SC).
- ↳ Federal system

However, Indian freedom struggle's ideals & spirit form the bed rock of Indian constitution:-

↳ Justice of social, economic & political.

↳ Affirmative action for disadvantaged sections.

↳ political & civil rights to everyone irrespective of ethnicity, caste, sex etc.

↳ Focus on equity & redistribution to minimise wealth concentration

↳ Directive principles laid down which guide the executive of the day.

↳ Fundamental rights & other safeguards (like in Art 310 - 335) are given.

↳ Freedom of religion & liberty to groups is given.

→ The principle of planning & welfare State approach envisaged by freedom fighters is still guiding the policy's mandate.

India constitution is amalgamation of spirit of freedom struggle & various Acts of British rule and it also incorporates the best features of all the constitution of the world by adapting to Indian scenario.
This makes it broad, inclusive & perfect document for nation building.

14. Mention the key components of the SVAMITVA scheme. Also, highlight its intended benefits and discuss the potential issues in its implementation. (250 words) 15

स्वामित्व (SVAMITVA) योजना के प्रमुख अवयवों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, इसके अपेक्षित लाभों को रेखांकित कीजिए तथा इसके कार्यान्वयन में संभावित मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Land records & their digitization is key to India's development in various sectors & hence has been emphasized upon by Government.
SVAMITVA Scheme of government tries to digitize all the land records of India to help in its effective identification.

Key components:
- Digitizing lands.
- Data with local tehsils.
- Effective management of land.
- Swamitva cards to be given.
- Help in land reforms & identification of benami properties

Intended Benefits of scheme:
- Will reduce the ghost land owners & hence clarity in land records.

→ will increase the transparency in land revenue & enhance the government's land reforms commitment.
→ will increase the potential for consolidation of lands.
→ will increase land specific interventions & enhance its productivity.
→ will lead to reduction in inflated land costs.
→ will lead to reduced disputes & property cases in courts.

Potential issues in its implementation

→ The problem of gradual digitization leading to impatiency.
→ local support is not proper leading to problems.
→ problems in designating the agricultural lands as boundaries formed lead to disputes.
→ The ghost owners being rich & influential are causing obstacles in implementation.

→ The lack of human resource for the work is a major issue plaguing the scheme's implementation

→ lack of involvement of PRI & local administration's apathy leads to difficulty.

SWAMITVA scheme will bring an era of reforms with proper designation of beneficiaries & targetted deliveries of benefits. Its speedy implementation is the need of hour.

15. Sharing of information among all stakeholders in government functioning is a leading practice towards good governance. Discuss with examples.

(250 words) 15

सरकारी कार्यप्रणाली में सभी हितधारकों के मध्य सूचना को साझा करना सुशासन के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण परिपाटी है। उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Good governance is defined as the governance which incorporates transparency, rule of law, accountability, consensus, participation of people & welfare for all.

An important component of good governance is sharing of information among all stakeholders i.e. information dissemination.

It leads to good governance in following ways:-

- Helps in making stakeholders aware of their rights & liabilities for ex:- citizen know where to access what & what documents are needed?
- Helps in increasing accountability of the public servants towards delivering services.
- Helps in increasing the usage of government facilities &

hence reach of government.

Ex:- Information about government's facility of online registration may lead to avoiding queue at offices.

→ Helps in reducing the bureaucratic hurdles & foster ease of doing business for the firms.

→ Helps in enhancing the trust in government.

→ Helps in robust feedback mechanism through monitoring of tasks mandated to be done by public servants.

Ex: If one knows that BDO is mandated to provide him benefits & he is asking for bribes, the person can complain & lead to exposing of BDO.

→ Helps in speedier grievance redressal as the information is mostly in public domain.

Ex: If person knows about the facility & drawbacks, specific complains can be filed & instant redressal as in Railways.

→ Helps in upholding the primary objective of expanding government efficiency & effectiveness in delivery of services

Eg:- Increase people participation as they know about schemes & incentives hence better targetting too.

→ Reduces the risk of misappropriation of benefits to ghost beneficiaries through proactive people vigilance.

Sharing of information along with the other components of good governance is needed to ensure the faster & efficient delivery of public services to people & strengthen welfare state.

16. India has an oversized and bloated government which acts as a drag on economic efficiency and growth. Critically evaluate. (250 words) 15

भारत में आवश्यकता से अधिक आकार और अतिशय दायित्वों को वहन करने वाली सरकार है, जो आर्थिक दक्षता एवं वृद्धि के संबंध में एक अवरोध के रूप में कार्य करती है। समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

India's government has a load of around 120 crore people who are from varied community, domains, skill level, culture & geography which reduces ~~their~~ government's response to each segment.

Arguments favoring oversized & bloated government in India dragging growth & efficiency:-

↳ Presence of huge regulatory mechanism with multiplicity of regulatory bodies.

↳ Overlapping roles & lack of clear definition of the responsibilities to various domains.

↳ The conception of minimum government remains a far-fetched reality since government is present everywhere (Said by an eminent political expert).

- problem of huge responsibilities which may be conflicting at times leads to paralysis.
- The workload & excess of governance reduces its effectiveness & makes apathetic civil servants.
- The size of government machinery with less focus on rationalizing the workforce has led to varied presence of ineffective sectors.

Arguments against oversized government & bloated government in India :-

- Government is still not present in many sectors for ex regulatory bodies absent in various fields
- Government size is not too large because there are vacancies too & the size is needed to govern a democracy like India.
- Government is slowly pushing away from non-priority sectors & there has been rationalization of workforce :-
  (i) 1) 15% cap on ministers 2) merger of PSEs

→ There is need of government intervention in various sectors to create level-playing field & ensure welfare state in letter & spirit.

Hence, government is oversized & bloated but is gradually rationalizing its responsibility with focus on strategic sector (being done by NITI Aayog).

There is a need to speed up the process to reduce bureaucratic red-tapism in governance.

17. Though the National Digital Health Mission is a step in the right direction for both patients and the healthcare system, concerns around data privacy need to be addressed. Examine. (250 words) 15

यद्यपि राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य मिशन रोगियों और स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणाली, दोनों के लिए उचित दिशा में उठाया गया एक कदम है, तथापि डेटा गोपनीयता से जुड़ी चिंताओं का समाधान किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

National Digital Health Mission has been lamched recently to provide tele-medical services & ensure digitization in health sector for access of goods.

Components of NDHM:-

- Health ID
- PHR
- DigiDoctor
- Electronic medical records
- NHA will implement the mission.

Advantages of NDHM for Indian health landscape:-

- Will reduce the problem of the infrastructural lag in public health sector.
- Will digitize records & help in government's mapping of data.

→ will ensure disease specific records & targetted intervention.

→ will help in increasing reach of health services which are inaccessible in rural areas due to doctor's unavailability.

→ may address the human resource crunch as India has only 1 doctor for 1456 people & 1.7 nurses for 1000 people

→ will increase conformity in treatment & counter the quacks.

→ Also help in countering Antimicrobial resistance through control on antibiotics sale etc.

(Concerns of privacy):-

→ Data in public domain may be leaked.

→ It can be harmful for nation's security too as health records may be used by adversaries.

→ It may lead to stigmatization of the patients. For ex:- infertile patients may be vulnerable.

→ It may also lead to use of data for commercialization & target patient delivery

→ It may not be successful in the public data accessibility as less people will be involved.

NDHM needs to address data privacy concerns through

- Data protection Act
- Clear clauses of privacy
- Anonymity & transparent mechanism fostered
- Regulation against leaks

NDHM is a game changer in India's poor health infrastructure but should be introduced cautiously.

18. One Nation One Ration card has the potential to significantly transform the lives of migrant workers in India. Analyse. (250 words) 15
वन नेशन वन राशन कार्ड में भारत में प्रवासी श्रमिकों के जीवन को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से रूपांतरित करने की क्षमता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

One Nation One Ration card is flagship scheme of government to foster one ration card for everyone across the country & enhance its interoperability for delivery benefits across India.

Advantage of One Nation One Ration Card for migrant workers :-

- will help them increase their nutritional status.
- will reduce their exploitation by local vendors.
- will bring them out of poverty & increase their health status
- will increase their economic productivity leading to higher wages
- enhance their bargaining power as their recognition in the destination state will be easier.

- will reduce the disease burden & unhygienic environment they live in by providing mechanism of identification.
- will lead to their better livelihood & opportunities in the areas of their emigration.

(Concerns still remaining)

- only 50% of ration is to be delivered in the migrant state.
- only the central benefits will be delivered & state's benefits will not be given to migrants.
- will be leading problem of ration taking in quantitative terms.
- Interoperability process is still slow.
- many migrants don't have ration cards of any state so facility for them needs to be evolved
- problem of registration & their livelihood in slums still remain.

→ Need to focus on migrant issues holistically as problems is not merely in food but in various domains.

Migrants' problems have been evident in recent COVID-19 & hence there is need to amend Interstate workmen Act to provide them social security & effective registration/identification must be done

19. The World Trade Organization is buffeted by multiple challenges which have eroded the credibility of the organization. Analyse. **(250 words) 15**
विश्व व्यापार संगठन कई चुनौतियों से ग्रस्त है, जिसने संगठन की विश्वसनीयता को समाप्त कर दिया है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

World Trade Organization is a multilateral forum fostering world trade & making rules for the disputes resolution to ensure rules-based world order & predictability in supply chains

(Challenges faced by WTO)

- It's effectiveness as the trade promoting forum reducing rapidly.
- Various Agreements & clauses still under negotiations from years ex:- Peace Clause on agriculture.
- Doha round still continuing & next stage not reached.
- The rise of plurilateral mechanism of trade (like FTA, CEPA & customs union) have led to reduction in role of WTO.

Ex RCEP as a major trade block.

→ WTO's Most Favored Nation & non-discriminatory clauses inefficient in the age of increasing protectionism & tariff wars' b/w US-China trade war

→ US has left the trade forum inconsequential with its increasing inwardness.

→ The lack of appointment in Appellate body due to US blockade has led to its dysfunctionality in dispute resolution.

↳ The upcoming deglobalization trend foster regional alliances more & preference based trading which threatens WTO's infrastructure

WTO's relevance :-

↳ It is the only body which can help in development of underdeveloped economies & help them gain market access.

→ It can be the potential trend reversing

forum to reduce the tariff wars & reverse protectionism.

→ Its survival is eminent for global development.

→ It will ensure the predictability in global trade.

WTO is in shambles & needs to be revived by efforts of G-77 & EU and other forum which support multilateralism. The alternative mechanism of dispute resolution carried out by Canada, Australia etc, will not work in long run hence WTO is the need of hour.

20. BIMSTEC is indispensable for India's efforts in promoting regional cooperation and integration in the neighbourhood. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**
बिम्सटेक (BIMSTEC) पड़ोस में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग और एकीकरण को बढ़ावा देने की दिशा में किए जाने वाले भारत के प्रयासों हेतु अपरिहार्य है। चर्चा कीजिए।

BIMSTEC is the regional organisation of 7 countries which trade through bay of bengal (BoB) & is the forum for India to engage its neighbourhood after SAARC's inactivity.

BIMSTEC :- Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Thailand, Srilanka, Nepal & Bhutan.

Focus on → connectivity, maritime trade, economic development, technology cooperation, security, disaster management, culture

Role of BIMSTEC in India's effort in promoting regional cooperation & integration :-

↳ Connectivity :- India needs to forge alliances to speed up connectivity projects like IMT trilateral highways, Moreh-Mandalay bus service etc. to enhance trade & increase North-East

India's development

→ Maritime trade :- Bay of Bengal is important trade route in world trade & hence there needs to be open & inclusive trade with no threats of piracy.

→ Disaster Management :- Collaboration to foster cooperation in disaster management operations as the frequency of cyclones increase in BoB.

→ Drug / cross border illegal trade :- Golden triangle countries (like Myanmar & Thailand) to be engaged to reduce the drug route to India.

→ Trade :- This region is least integrated in terms of trade. Hence economic integration needed to make way for political collaboration.

→ Technology :- This region is backward in technology with lack of resources & huge population & hence technology sharing by India & Thailand is needed to develop other countries.

→ counter China :- China is making inroads in all the economies in the region hence there is a need to keep them in Indian fold.

Concerns

↳ Chinese projects in neighbourhood exp. Myanmar, Bangladesh (25 energy projects)

↳ Lack of secretariat & meetings of BIMSTEC (its charter finalized after 27 years).

↳ Resources needed to be pumped in to revive the forum & make it effective.

↳ It is not a substitute to SAARC but has potential to engage South-East hence membership must be open for Indonesia etc.

BIMSTEC is important for India to assert regional soft power & become an effective world power.

Hence, India needs to concentrate according to its 'Act East Policy' on BIMSTEC.